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SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes

October 29, 2013

A regular meeting of the School District 428 Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2013 at 9:36 a.m., at IYC Chicago Aftercare Services Building with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:36 a.m., by Director Arthur D. Bishop, Board President greeting and welcoming everyone. Roll call was taken by Delores McKinney, with the following members present: Director Arthur D. Bishop, Director of Juvenile Justice; Tresa Dunbar; Carl Ellis; and, Donald Smoot. Others present: Rick Gravatt, Interim School District Superintendent; Beth Compton, Chief Legal Counsel; Delores McKinney, Administration Assistant; and Josie Day, Executive Secretary.

Director Bishop thanked everyone for attending the meeting and made all parties aware of the death in James Gunnell's family. Director suggested a change to the agenda to go into open session first and then into closed session. The motion was made by Donald Smoot and seconded by Carl Ellis. Motion carried.

Director Bishop asked staff to update everyone on items on the agenda.

BUSINESS:

Interim Superintendent Gravatt reported that there is minimum change in the budget. Agriculture is \$5,000 instead of \$10,000. We will have to let go of this because we do not have the teachers to teach it. By law, the School Board has to approve a meeting by November 15, 2013.

Mary Reynolds will be speaking with the Illinois State Board of Education in reference to an audit.

Interim Superintendent Gravatt stated we have \$1.5 Million dollars which has been approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. In addition, we have approved money for Pearson in our Title 1 Grant.

We do not know what the budget for Special Education will be at this time. The money will go into our general fund. There is concern about money for curriculum. We are doing an assessment at this time to see if the money is available.

Director Bishop suggested that a letter be prepared and mailed from the Board to the Illinois State Board of Education for clarification on the District's budget. The motion was made by Director Bishop and seconded by Tresa Dunbar. Motion carried.

At this time we will not be able to proceed with the Mawi Leadership Class. It is too late at this time to do the Mawi Leadership Class and we are short on staff. Teachers would have to be trained and we do not have the availability for this at the present time. We will have to amend the grant for a blended program. Beth Compton stated we have no current contract on file for Mawi, and a contract would have to be approved by procurement and this has not been done.

Interim Superintendent Gravatt stated there is a mandate to serve inmates up to twenty-one years of age. Director made a motion to have a letter sent to Mr. Koch for a meeting as soon as possible at the Illinois State Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Tresa Dunbar. Motion carried.

Tresa Dunbar stressed that for the last three months we have been trying to come together to make accomplishments and that it has been difficult to get everyone together.

Interim Superintendent Gravatt addressed the Pearson invoice issue. In February 2012, a contract was signed and service was started in May 2012. In April 2012, we purchased 245 seats and an additional 255 seats in November 2012.

We have an invoice pending for \$78,000 with Pearson for the original 245 computers. Interim Superintendent Gravatt stressed that it is imperative that we keep the Pearson contract in place. He feels that if we do not renew this contract it will devastate the schools. After it is renewed we can look at a blended contract but at this time we must move forward and agree on keeping the program with Pearson in place.

Interim Superintendent Gravatt amplified not all our students have the availability to go to school each day. We have a lack of staff and we must have the Pearson program.

Beth Compton commented that the Pearson program is used inside the facility and the virtual program can be used outside as well as inside. Seats were paid for but we only used 17 seats.

Director Bishop suggested that the Pearson invoice be paid. Tresa Dunbar made the motion and Donald Smoot seconded the motion. Motion carried with Carl Ellis opposed. Donald Smoot made the motion to renew the Pearson contract and Tresa Dunbar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Interim Superintendent Gravatt proposed that we discuss the juveniles in the Illinois Department of Corrections at our next school board meeting. Tresa Dunbar made the motion and Donald Smoot seconded it. Motion carried.

The Bridges Program for our youth can be utilized after the youth leave our facilities.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET:

A motion was made to approve the budget by Donald Smoot and seconded by Tresa Dunbar. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Beth Compton clarified that the School Board cannot start a meeting without a quorum but can have a discussion.

ADJOURMENT:

Director Bishop thanked everyone for the business that was accomplished and made a motion to adjourn. Tresa Dunbar seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:52a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Interim Superintendent Gravatt